



## OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF LUXEMBOURG

[www.oxford.lu](http://www.oxford.lu)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Oxonians,

The highlight of 2013 was undoubtedly the Benelux Weekend, when 89 Oxford & Cambridge alumni enjoyed a whole series of events to discover Luxembourg. We were proud to welcome 27 visitors from Oxford & Cambridge societies in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany to join our weekend. The concert of Shakespeare sonnets raised €1.032 for SOS Villages d'Enfants.

However, the life of our Society is rich and varied, with events happening throughout the year. On the purely social side we celebrated our first joint dinner with the Oxford University Belgo-Luxembourg Association and nearer to home we enjoyed a joint social dinner in the spring with our friends from the Other Place. In the height of summer we enjoyed the annual croquet match against the Cambridge Society and in the autumn fourteen Oxonians sat down to a very cosy dinner in Mousels' Cantine. Life was not all eating and drinking though. In March we enjoyed a fascinating talk about the links between Turkey and Rabindranath Tagore from a Luxembourg scholar at Oxford and in October ten members braved the cold to discover the Vauban fortress of Longwy and to enjoy an excellent lunch together. It is not only the committee who create these events. In February Philippa and Edward Seymour organised enjoyable musical evenings based on John Aubrey's writings and raised €500 which has been donated to the central student support fund of the University. In September, with the help of Peter Carter, thirteen members enjoyed a discussion dinner with a leading expert in environmental economics.

Our Society has a mission to promote the interests of the University and we do this in a number of ways. In early September we mounted a public debate about the long-term costs of meat eating, featuring a leading expert from Oxford. We hope to do more events like this in the future. Our work to assist applicants to study at Oxford has grown over the years into an annual cycle. In October and November we run practice interviews jointly with the Cambridge society: there were 31 applicants in all in 2013, including 13 for Oxford of whom four were offered places. In November we run a stand at the Foire de l'Etudiant to encourage talented school students to apply to Oxford and in April there is a joint information evening with the Cambridge Society. Twice last year we made visits to Luxembourg secondary schools with visitors

*Association sans but lucratif, R.C.S. Luxembourg: F478 • Registered office: c/o Dupong, Metzler & Diederich, 11 ave. Jean-Pierre Pescatore, BP 472, L-2014 Luxembourg. Bank Account: BCEELULL IBAN LU21 0019 1755 3010 3000.*

*Committee: Andrew Hallan (Chairman), Harriet Stone (Secretary), Jan Koenighaus (Treasurer), Henri Dupong (Counsel), Jane Feehan (Membership), David Clark, Gérard Schockmel, David Weis, Hervé Hansen. Roderick Dunnett (Emeritus), Jean-Claude Muller (Cultural Advisor).*

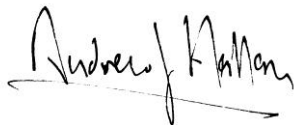
from the University to promote the benefits of an Oxford undergraduate education. Lastly, in late September there is a Freshers' Dinner where the Society get to know the new freshers who are about to go up. I am pleased to say that all of our educational activities profit from active support by H.E. the Hon. Alice Walpole, UK Ambassador to Luxembourg.

Behind all this activity stands a strong Committee. At the last AGM in June 2013 we welcomed two new members, Harriet Stone and Florian Heupel. Harriet is now Secretary to the Society. We have a good mix of nationalities and ages, but not quite enough women members. David Clark stood down in July after a most successful year as Chairman and I had the honour to be elected by the Committee in his stead. The Committee works well because we share the work amongst ourselves and back each other up in case of absence. When needed we are also able to call on our Cultural Advisor, Jean-Claude Muller and our ex-chairman, Roderick Dunnett, who are both very active in our support.

The Committee has decided to make more active use of e-mails and the web site ([www.oxford.lu](http://www.oxford.lu)) as a means of communicating with the membership. Members will now receive an e-mail advising them of each major event. Following the success of the Benelux weekend we have also opened contact with neighbouring Oxford and Cambridge branches and you will see invitations to some of their events on the web site. Do please check out the web site regularly for our latest news.

We had 66 subscribing members in 2013 and we hope very much that we will exceed this number in 2014. We are a legally recognised, independent Luxembourg a.s.b.l., with a nameplate and a fine office in the heart of the City, thanks to our Counsel, Henri Dupong. At the same time, the logos at the head of this notice also show that we are proud to be part of a worldwide network of Oxford alumni. I hope that all of you will show your pride by joining our activities in 2014.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hallan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew Hallan  
Chairman.